

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously presented) A method of modifying a balloon of a catheter assembly, comprising:

inflating a balloon of a catheter assembly to an inflated state wherein the inflated state is greater than a range of an intended expanded configuration of the balloon and less than a diameter or size at which the balloon becomes damaged or unsuitable for its intended use of insertion into a patient; and

applying a substance to the balloon, wherein the substance is deposited on a surface of the balloon and/or is deposited within a wall membrane of the balloon.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inflated state is maintained at the same or generally the same level during the application of the substance to the balloon.

6. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inflated state is increased or decreased during the application of the substance to the balloon.

7. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, additionally including pulsating the balloon to a greater and/or smaller size during the application of the substance.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the substance is in a fluid form or carried by a fluid carrier.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8, additionally comprising removing the fluid carrier from the balloon such that a dry form of the substance is left on and/or within the wall membrane of the balloon.

10. (canceled)

11. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the balloon is inflated to a greater extent prior to or during the process of removal of the fluid carrier.

12. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the balloon is partially deflated prior to or during the process of removal of the fluid carrier.

13. (canceled)

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the balloon is pulsed to a greater and/or smaller size during the removal of the fluid carrier.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the substance is in fluid form or carried by a fluid carrier, wherein the method additionally comprises blowing gas at the balloon.

17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, wherein gas is blown contemporaneously with the application of a substance.

18. (original) The method of Claim 16, wherein gas is blown subsequent to the application of the substance.

19. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the balloon is inflated prior to application of the substance.

20. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the balloon is inflated subsequent to the application of the substance or during the application of the substance.

21. (currently amended) A method of modifying a balloon of a catheter assembly, comprising:

inflating a balloon of a catheter assembly to an inflated state;

applying a substance to an outer surface of a wall membrane of the balloon to deposit the substance within [[a]] the wall membrane of the balloon; and

deflating the balloon in preparation for the intended use of the balloon such that the substance is contained within the wall membrane of the balloon.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the inflated state is a hyper-inflated state.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the inflated state is in a range of an intended expanded configuration of the balloon.

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the inflated state is maintained at the same or generally the same level during the application of the substance to the balloon.

25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the substance is dissolved in a fluid carrier, and wherein the method additionally comprises removing at least some of the fluid carrier to deposit the substance within the wall membrane of the balloon.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the substance is saturated in a fluid carrier, and wherein the method additionally comprises removing at least some of the fluid carrier to deposit the substance within the wall membrane of the balloon.

27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the substance is supersaturated in the fluid carrier, and wherein the method additionally comprises removing at least some of the fluid carrier to deposit the substance within the wall membrane of the balloon.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the substance includes a drug.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the wall membrane of the balloon is made from a porous material.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the wall membrane of the balloon comprises an inner non-porous layer and an outer porous layer.

31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the balloon is inflated prior to the application of the substance.

32-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A method of modifying a balloon of a catheter assembly, comprising:

inflating a balloon of a catheter assembly to an inflated state, the balloon having a wall membrane and pores formed in the wall membrane;

applying a substance in a fluid carrier to the balloon; [[and]]

removing the fluid carrier from the balloon such that a dry form of the substance is left on and/or within the wall membrane of the balloon[[,]]; and

collapsing the pores after applying the substance in the fluid carrier to the balloon
~~wherein prior to or during the removing process, the inflated state of the balloon is modified to a different state.~~

58. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of Claim 57, wherein prior to or during the removing process, the inflated state of the balloon is modified from a hyper-inflated state to: (i) a state of intended expanded configuration, (ii) a collapsed configuration, or (iii) an under inflated state.

59. (currently amended) The method of Claim 57, wherein prior to or during the removing process, the inflated state of the balloon is modified from a state of intended expanded configuration to: (i) a collapsed configuration or (ii) an under inflated state.

60. (currently amended) The method of Claim 57, wherein prior to or during the removing process, the inflated state of the balloon is modified to ~~the different state~~ is a state having a reduced size or diameter.

61. (currently amended) The method of Claim 57, wherein prior to or during the removing process, the inflated state of the balloon is modified to the different state is a collapsed configuration or an under inflated state.

62. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising deflating the balloon to a collapsed configuration or an under inflated state.

63-64. (canceled)

65. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein
the balloon includes pores formed in the wall membrane of the balloon; and
the method additionally comprises collapsing the pores after applying the substance to the balloon.

66. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein
applying the substance to the balloon includes applying the substance in a fluid carrier to the balloon; and
the method additionally comprises inhibiting evaporation of the fluid carrier.

67. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein:
the balloon includes pores formed in the wall membrane of the balloon; and
the method additionally comprises collapsing the pores after applying a substance to the outer surface of the wall membrane.

68. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein
applying the substance to the outer surface of the wall membrane of the balloon includes applying the substance in a fluid carrier to the outer surface of the wall membrane of the balloon; and

the method additionally comprises inhibiting evaporation of the fluid carrier.

69. (new) The method of claim 57, addition comprising inhibiting removal of the fluid carrier from the balloon.

70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein inhibiting removal of the fluid carrier includes applying an inert gas to the balloon contemporaneously with applying the substance in the fluid carrier to the balloon.